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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Board of Health and Welfare Meets December 6 to Discuss
Petition for Moratorium on New Inpatient Hospital Beds**

The Idaho Board of Health and Welfare will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, December 6, to discuss and make a decision about a moratorium on the licensing and certification of new inpatient hospital beds. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. in the 10th floor conference room of the Pete T. Cenarrussa Building, 450 West State St. in Boise.

The Board was petitioned by the Idaho Hospital Association to take this action during its November 17 board meeting. The Hospital Association requested the moratorium until the Idaho Legislature can address the issue of a Certificate of Need for new hospital bed construction. The subject arises from a proposed orthopedic/neurosurgery specialty hospital planned for the Treasure Valley, and the impact it may have on the healthcare industry.

During the November 17th hearing, public testimony and comments were taken and are being reviewed by the Board. The board plans to discuss the issue at the December 6th meeting; no additional public comments on the petition will be taken during the meeting.

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(Editors: For more information please contact Tom Shanahan, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Public Information Officer, 208-334-0668.)